W.J.T. 2/21/67

'Not an Ounce of Truth'—Sorensen on Censor Report

Former presidential adviser Theodore Sorensen says there is "not an ounce of truth" in a report by William Manchester that he allowed his book "Kennedy" to be censored.

Sorensen, former special counsel to President John F. Kennedy, said yesterday that Manchester had made a "highly inaccurate reference to me" in an article in Look magazine.

"He says—you know, it's incredible—he said that for an hour he begged me to not give way in my book," Sorensen said at an informal news conference following a talk to the New York Fraternal Congress.

In the Look article Manchester wrote, ". . . Ted took the easy way, giving way on point after point and weakening what should have been a great volume . . . I spent two hours begging him to hold his ground. He refused. He was a public figure, not a writer; he couldn't see the principle involved."

Sorensen said, "There's not an ounce of truth in that. I didn't give way, I didn't yield principle, there was no censorship. The thing is of whole cloth."